

EMERGENCY MOTION STORM ARWEN

Motion by Councillors C Shiers and R McCall

That this Council:

- notes the significant damage caused by the impact of Storm Arwen in Perth & Kinross in particular, but also across many areas of Scotland and the UK;
- applauds the significant and tireless efforts of individuals and communities across the whole council area to help their neighbours in ways such as...
 - the farmers who cleared fallen trees from roads and properties,
 - the individuals with power who provided flasks and hot water bottles, and cooked hot food, and brought them to people without,
 - the villages and communities which opened up impromptu resilience centres,
 - the neighbours who lent gas heaters and bottles,
 - the businesses who lent generators to their communities,
 - the hospitality staff who gave the respite of hot meals and accommodation to those without power, and
 - the friends, family and neighbours who took in and accommodated people;
- commends the speed of response of Perth & Kinross Council staff when asked to help vulnerable individuals and communities struggling to cope with the immediate after- effects;
- recognises that SSEN staff and contractors faced a mammoth task in restoring power to homes and businesses, but notes that many community concerns have been raised regarding the accuracy and accessibility of communications about power outages;
- notes that emergencies due to extreme wind, rain and snow, can require a community response at very short notice, but that many communities have the will but not the means currently to provide such a response, particularly for periods extending into days;
- notes the speed of community response compared to the slowness of any response from the Scottish Government;
- requests the Leader of the Council to write to the Scottish Government requesting that further funding be made available through local authorities to assist communities in building and refining resilience plans, and in purchasing and maintaining equipment necessary to respond to future emergencies.